



Westport Shellfish Commission

Potential Partnership with Harbor Watch for Water Quality Monitoring
January 4, 2023

Thank you for your interest in partnering with Harbor Watch to tackle water quality monitoring and pollution track-down in Westport. We are pleased to have active engagement from both the Westport Conservation Department and Shellfish Commission, which will enable us to make meaningful progress in the improvement of water quality in town and ultimately Long Island Sound.

Who We Are: Harbor Watch is a water quality research and education program of Earthplace in Westport, CT. Founded in 1986, the mission of Harbor Watch is to improve water quality and ecosystem health in Connecticut. We achieve this mission through (1) water quality monitoring of local rivers and harbors, (2) internship and volunteer opportunities for students and adults, and (3) partnering with municipal leaders to improve our waterways. Data is collected under EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plans and all bacteria samples are processed in our CT DPH certified laboratory located at Earthplace in Westport. Thanks to strong relationships and collaborative efforts with our municipal partners, the sources that we identify are quickly and efficiently fixed. These partnerships and our track-record of success have allowed us to become a leader in data collection and dissemination in the County.

Proposed Scope of Work: Harbor Watch would work with the Westport Shellfish Commission to select a waterway of concern and choose sampling locations (up to 8). From May through September, the waterway would be monitored 10 times (approximately twice per month). Sampling events are randomized throughout the week and conducted regardless of tidal or weather conditions in order to gain an understanding of water quality conditions over the course of an entire season. During each sampling event, data would be collected using a field meter for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity or salinity. Additionally, a water sample would be collected for indicator bacteria (total coliform and *E. coli*, or enterococcus) analysis at the Harbor Watch Laboratory. The purpose of testing would be to maintain baseline data to understand the current water quality conditions and identify where pollution track-down is needed to isolate potential sources. At the end of the monitoring season, the data would be analyzed and included in the Harbor Watch Fairfield County River Report (typically released in December). Data would also be shared with CT DEEP for inclusion in their Integrated Water Quality Report.

Based on historic data, Harbor Watch would suggest monitoring be conducted on one of the following waterways: Pussy Willow Brook, Muddy Brook, Sasco Brook, or Stony Brook.

Cost: The total cost for the proposed monitoring in 2023 is \$7,500. This money would be used to cover testing and laboratory supplies, field personnel, and travel costs associated with the project.

We look forward to partnering with you to improve water quality conditions in Westport! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at n.spiller@earthplace.org or by phone at 203-557-4403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Spiller", written in a cursive style.

Nicole Spiller
Director of Harbor Watch